



Joint Information Center

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Some Nebraskans May Claim Unemployment Following Recent Winter Storms

Joint Information Center, Grand Island, NE:

There are many Nebraskans who have become temporarily unemployed due to the damage incurred by the ice storms. Although power restoration efforts are progressing, the safety of individuals and families during the cold winter nights to come is the primary concern.

As a result, many businesses in the affected areas have been asked to temporarily close to conserve electricity and stabilize the power grid. With the closure of these businesses, many Nebraskans are now without their primary source of income. Financial aid, through an unemployment claim, is available to qualified individuals by calling Nebraska Workforce Development.

To file for unemployment, and to allow the claim to be back dated, Nebraska residents must call 877-725-9918. **DO NOT FILE ON-LINE.** Callers will need to answer a series of questions in an automated system before speaking to a live person at the end of the call.

During the automated question prompts, when the caller is asked if they are "job attached", they must answer "yes". They will then be asked for a date they are returning to work. The claimant should indicate a date at least 30 days out for this question—even if they do not have a guarantee of when they are returning. This is due to a special exemption for the ice storm, as many will not have a guaranteed date to return to work.

At the end of the call, individuals filing the claim must tell the "live" person that they are from the Holdrege and surrounding area, another affected area, or that they have been affected by the storm.